

CHAPTER FIVE: THE FRAMEWORK OF CHANGE, 1941 - 1975

Midway's War Memorial

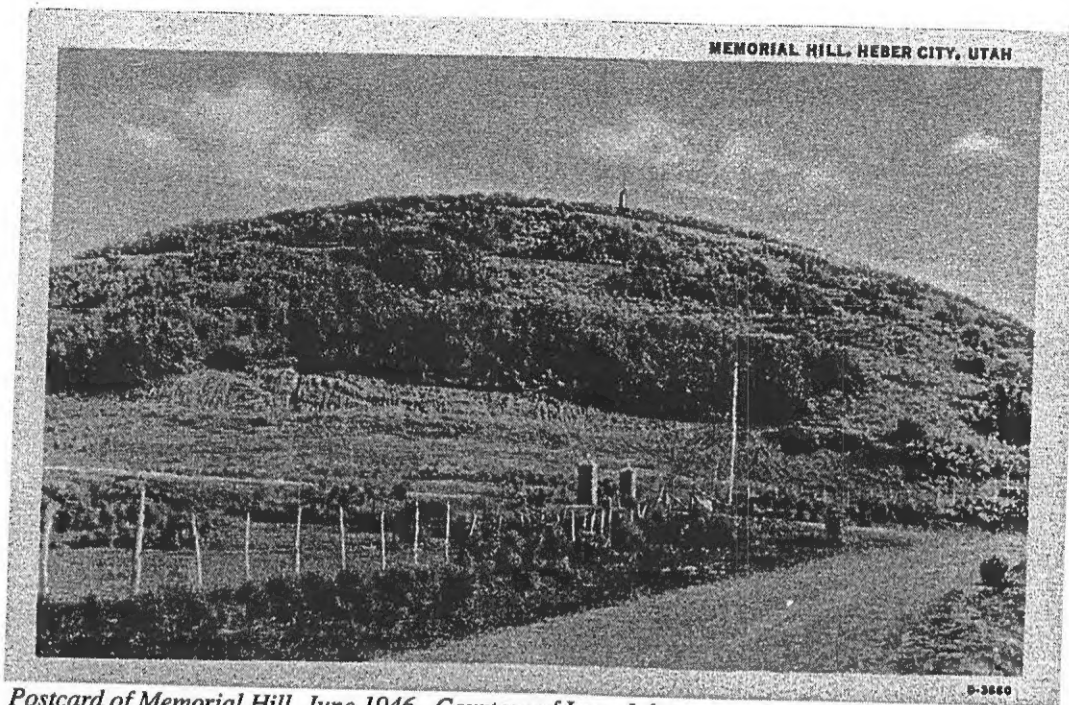
Dr. Raymond Green provided a wealth of information and detail on both the history of Midway's Memorial Hill and its recent rededication as a monument to all those from Wasatch County who had ever served in the military.

This famous landmark at 5,793 feet elevation above sea level, located east of River Road at 250 North, was originally named Jesse's Mound for Jesse McCarrell, one of Midway's first settlers. From 1900 to 1922 it was the site of a successful lime kiln operated by John and William Van Wagoner and later Frederick Haueter. In 1923 Joseph C. McDonald and his wife, Minnie Sonderegger McDonald suggested that the hill be used as a memorial to those from Heber Valley who had served in the military. David H. Broadbent, chairman of the Wasatch Chamber of Commerce, and James B. Wilson, the Midway representative in the Utah State legislature, were successful in lobbying the state for a tax levy to build a road and construct a monument on top of Memorial Hill. Then the hill was acquired by Wasatch County and

plans for the permanent monument were well underway.

A year or two earlier the Memorial Hill Association was formed by local citizens to move the project forward. Melvin Brown, the Wasatch County surveyor, had laid out the spiral road leading to the top and the association gave the road contract of \$4,500.00 to Ray Davis of Salem, Utah on November 14, 1927. The group selected a Salt Lake City architect, Mrs. Leigh Black Turner, to design the monument and plaques to be constructed on the top of Memorial Hill. By 1928 the concrete and rock monument was completed and the brass plaques were in place. The original monument was completed and dedicated later that same year. The plaques were unveiled by Mrs. Daniel Lockhart of Wallsburg, who had lost two sons in World War I. (Green 2002)

A \$7,000 grant was made available by Wasatch County for the monument's renovation in 1976. Eugene W. Probst refurbished the monument with pot rock taken from the old Midway Elementary School on the northeast corner of the town square.



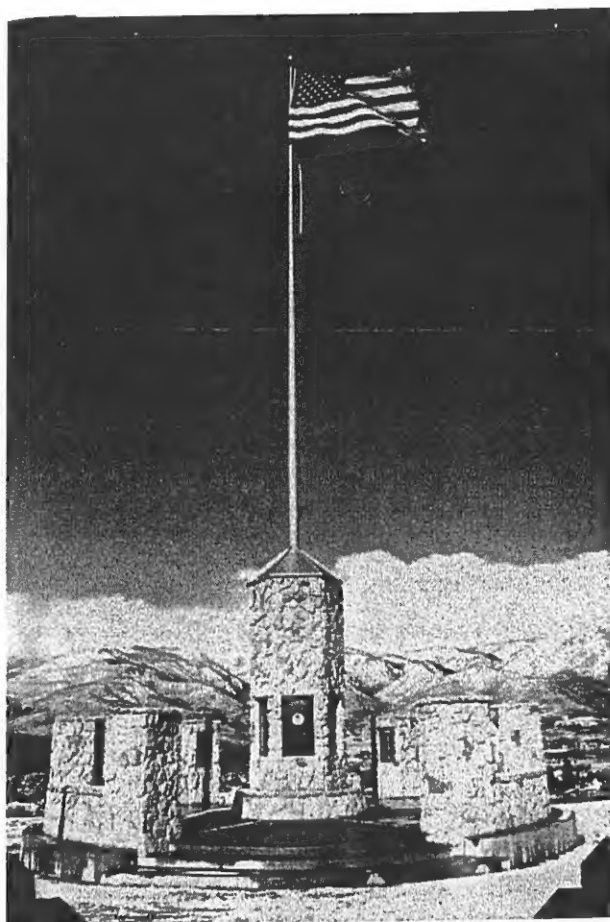
Postcard of Memorial Hill, June 1946. Courtesy of Lynn Johnson.

About 1983 the monument on Memorial Hill was vandalized and the bronze name plaques were taken. Since no duplicate copy of the original names could be found, Dr. Raymond Green, representing the local Sons of Utah Pioneers, Peter Coleman of the Wasatch County Commission, and Alvah Kohler began a quest in 1988 to find a listing of those names which were included in the 1928-plaques. This effort took nearly fourteen years and had as its goal the research and verification of all military veterans who ever lived in Wasatch County and who had fought in wars beginning with the earliest conflicts in United States history.

On November 11, 2002 the new plaques and monument restoration was rededicated by members of the local war veterans association. Currently there are 2,323 names of men and women who lived in Wasatch County and who served our country during wartime. They include all U.S. wars from 1812 to the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The following remarks were made by Dr. Green at the rededication ceremony:

"To all Wasatch County war veterans from all wars. We honor you this day by placing your names on these Memorial Hill plaques. We want you to know that Wasatch County



Memorial Hill Monument. Courtesy of Jim Jenkins.

citizens appreciate the same freedoms that you hold dear and fought so hard for.

"Volunteerism in Wasatch County is alive and well in our communities. Many people stepped forward and contributed many hours of services and money, to bring all things together by this time. The Mountain Valley Chapter of the Sons of the Utah Pioneers gathered names, as did Daniel Ballstaedt. The

Wasatch Wave printed and reprinted long lists of veterans. The Wasatch County Parks and Recreation provided trucks, equipment, and manpower for improvements. Terry Edwards designed and erected the steel arch and gate at the bottom of the hill with help from Alvah Kohler. Eugene W. Probst and his sons built the pot rock bases of the arch and the pylons on top of the hill. A Boy Scout troop from the Heber LDS 6th Ward installed the new plaques. The Questar Corporation has contributed pipe for irrigating the plants, shrubs, and trees on the top of the hill. And many people brought cash donations."

World War II: Rationing & Realities

World War II changed Midway and the country in many ways. It brought an end to the trauma of the Great Depression. By the end of 1942, a year since the United States entered the war, more than 50,000 new jobs were created in Utah. The marriage rate went up significantly and so did the birthrate. Conservation became a way of life. Women had to do without stockings because all suitable textiles were declared critical. Hairdressers used toothpicks instead of metal bobby pins. Housewives saved fats in tin cans, and children brought them to school with collected old newspapers and